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# Wilderness and Primitive Areas in Southwestern National Forests

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Southwestern  
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"No servant brought them meals . . . No traffic cop whistled them off the hidden rock in the next rapids. No friendly roof kept them dry when they misguessed whether or not to pitch the tent. No guide showed them which camping spots offered a nightlong breeze and which nightlong misery of mosquitoes; which firewood made clear coals and which would only smoke. The elemental simplicities of wilderness travel were thrills . . . because they represented complete freedom to make mistakes. The wilderness gave . . . those rewards and penalties for wise and foolish acts . . . against which civilization has built a thousand buffers."

*Aldo Leopold (1887-1948)*

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# Wilderness and Primitive Areas in Southwestern National Forests

Wilderness is many things to many people; it is both a condition of physical geography and a state of mind which varies from one person to another. It provides exercise to the body and stimulus to the mind and acts as a fountain of sustenance and renewal to the soul.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture established the Nation's first wilderness near Silver City in southwestern New Mexico, in June 1924.

The wilderness concept grew out of a recognized need to retain some of the Nation's primeval characteristics; to provide contrast from asphalt and concrete, the sounds and hurry of civilization, and a special experience for visitors willing to travel by foot or horseback.

The Wilderness Act which created the National Wilderness Preservation System was passed by Congress in 1964 and on September 3, the President signed it into law. The legislation stated that wilderness is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It provided for use and enjoyment of wilderness, but in a manner that leaves such areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

Although the Wilderness Act defines (in part) a wilderness as an area of undeveloped Federal land that "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of Nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable," it includes provisions to allow such activities as stock grazing and mining.

Wilderness helped to shape our national character as our ancestors met and conquered its challenge. The National Wilderness Preservation System assures all future Americans of a continuing opportunity to test their pioneering skills.

Accordingly, when visitors enter a National Forest wilderness they must expect no piped water, no prepared shelters, no toilet facilities, no tables, and no grills to hold cooking utensils. There will be trail signs, but all users will be on their own in a sometimes alien and unfamiliar environment. Other than wheelchairs, only non-mechanized transportation, such as pack stock or foot travel can be used.

Wilderness is part and parcel of democracy—of the heritage, of the progress, of the expression of America that touches the mind, heart, and soul in a special way known only to each individual.

## Southwestern Region

The variety of wilderness environments in the Southwestern Region is unmatched, ranging from the stark beauty of Arizona desert through the greenery of dense coniferous forests and upward to rocky spires above timberline in northern New Mexico. Here one may enjoy the pleasures of wilderness hunting, fishing, hiking, climbing, camping, or just relaxing in undisturbed natural areas.

Remember, these are your lands. Their future as primitive undisturbed landscapes depends on the personal behavior of visitors and the support of wilderness management by non-users.

Personal ethics for back-country or wilderness use include careful trip planning, proper disposal of wastes, minimum use of campfires, dispersal of fire rings, and the overall practice of minimum-impact travel and overnight stops. Sufficient potable water supplies are in short supply throughout southwestern wilderness areas. Each individual will need a minimum of two liters of water per day. All water sources should be treated/filtered, even spring water. Many cases of giardia have been reported from drinking untreated water. Boiling water the specified amounts of time, based on elevation, is another recommended method. Some good, new backpacker filters and treatment chemicals on the market have been approved by testing agencies as effective in treating giardia.

An area of long ago human occupation may be wilderness today. Sites once occupied by prehistoric Indians have scientific and spiritual value. Ruins of their homes, quarries, and other evidence of past use can be found by archeologists. Historic structures of a later period, such as cabins and lookouts, may also be found in wilderness. Wilderness users can enjoy a glimpse into the past at such sites. Visitors are welcome there and can help preserve them for the future by reporting illegal excavations, collecting, and other deprecations.



# Preserve the Wilderness Resource

We visit back-country areas for solitude and a “wilderness experience.” We want to escape from crowds, noise, and the daily pressures of urban life. However, many areas are already overcrowded; evidence of people, horses, tents, and campfires is everywhere.

Enjoying wildlands requires a commitment to preserve them. “Leave No Trace” back-country practices are techniques we can use to help reduce our presence in wildlands. Through an understanding of “Leave No Trace” land ethics, we can enjoy the wilderness, while preserving the solitude we seek.

The following principles can better protect the land and lessen the sights and sounds of our visit.

## Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations, inherent risks and special concerns for the area you’ll visit.
- Visit the back country in small groups.
- Avoid popular areas during times of high use.
- Choose equipment and clothing in subdued colors.
- Repackage food into reusable containers.

## Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

### *On the Trail . . .*

- Stay on designated trails. Walk in single file in the middle of the path.
- Do not shortcut switchbacks.
- When traveling cross-country, choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, dry grass, or snow.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the need for rock cairns, tree scars, and ribbons.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail and talk softly when encountering pack stock.

### *At Camp . . .*

- Choose an established, legal site that will not be damaged by your stay.

- Restrict activities to the area where vegetation is compacted or absent.
- Keep pollutants out of water sources by camping at least 200 feet (70 adult steps) from lakes and streams.

## **Pack It In, Pack It Out**

- Pack everything that you bring into wild country back out with you.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.
- Pick up all spilled foods.

## **Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out**

- Deposit human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, or trails.
- Use toilet paper or wipes sparingly. Pack them out.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes, and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dish water.
- Inspect your campsite for your stay. Pack out all trash; yours and others'.

## **Leave What You Find**

- Treat our natural heritage with respect. Leave plants, rocks, and historical artifacts as you find them.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site should not be necessary.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Keep loud voices and noises to a minimum.
- Control pets at all times. Remove dog feces.
- Do not build structures or furniture or dig trenches.

## **Minimize Use and Impact of Fire**

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the back country. Always carry a lightweight stove for cooking. Enjoy a candle lantern instead of a fire.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fire. Don't scar large rocks and overhangs.

- Gather sticks, no larger than an adult's wrist. Do not snap branches off live, dead or downed trees.
- Put out campfires completely.
- Remove all unburned trash from the fire ring and scatter the cool ashes over a large area well away from camp.

For information and materials about "Leave No Trace", please call: 1-800-332-4100 or visit the web site at <http://www.lnt.org>.

# Maps and Wilderness Use

Wilderness maps showing trails, springs and the wilderness boundary can be purchased at Forest Service offices. These maps also include useful information about the wilderness, minimum impact use, and safety. Map prices vary depending on the type of map.

Wilderness and primitive areas are unique, valuable, fragile lands. Human use grows annually. Protect and use these areas as you would a valuable piece of personal property.

Some areas may require a permit to visit. Check with the appropriate district office before entering the wilderness. Those offices are listed in each area's descriptions shown later in this document.

A number of outfitter/guides are authorized to conduct trips in many of the wilderness areas thru a special use permit. If you are interested in having outfitter/guide service, a local Forest Service office will be pleased to give you names and addresses of those persons with current special use permits.

There are many hazards to travelling in wilderness. Visitors need to be aware that they are many hours, if not days, away from rescue or medical care.

Be physically and mentally prepared to enter a wilderness. Leave no evidence of your visit, so others may enjoy it unspoiled. Pack out everything you pack in, plus trash left by others less thoughtful.

Many wilderness areas restrict the group size as well as the length of stay. Consult the local Forest Service office for details.

Curtail horse use when trails are extremely wet and muddy.

Hikers yield to horses.

Plan your trip—go light.

The use of a wheelchair (see definition below) is permitted in a wilderness by an individual whose disability requires use of a wheelchair.

"The term wheelchair means a device solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area."

Additional information is available from the following offices.  
Note that TTYs are available for the hearing impaired:

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
309 S. Mountain Avenue  
U.S. Hwy. 180  
P.O. Box 640  
Springerville, AZ 85938  
Voice: (520) 333-4301  
TTY: (520) 333-6292

Carson National Forest  
Forest Service Building  
208 Cruz Alta Road  
Taos, NM 87571  
Voice: (505) 758-6200  
TTY: (505) 758-6329

Cibola National Forest  
2113 Osuna Road NE, Suite A  
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001  
Voice & TTY: (505) 346-2650

Coconino National Forest  
2323 E. Greenlaw Lane  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004  
Voice & TTY: (520) 527-3600

Coronado National Forest  
Federal Building  
300 West Congress  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
Voice: (520) 670-4552

Gila National Forest  
3005 E. Camino del Bosque  
Silver City, NM 88061  
Voice: (505) 388-8201  
TTY: (505) 388-8485

Kaibab National Forest  
800 S. 6th Street  
Williams, AZ 86046  
Voice: (520) 635-8200  
TTY: (520) 635-8222

Lincoln National Forest  
1101 New York Avenue  
Alamogordo, NM 88310-6992  
Voice: (505) 434-7200

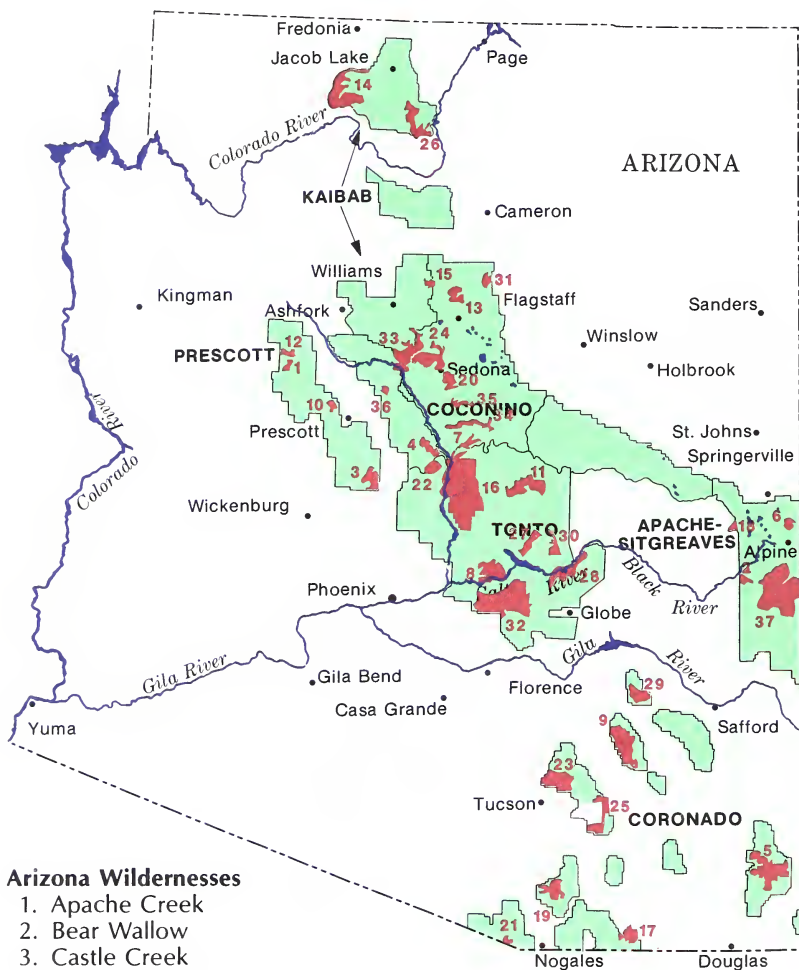
Prescott National Forest  
344 South Cortez Street  
Prescott, AZ 86303-4398  
Voice: (520) 771-4700  
TTY: (520) 771-4708

Santa Fe National Forest  
1474 Rodeo Road  
P.O. Box 1689  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
Voice: (505) 438-7840  
TTY: (505) 438-7804

Tonto National Forest  
2324 East McDowell Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
Voice: (602) 225-5200  
TTY: (602) 225-5395

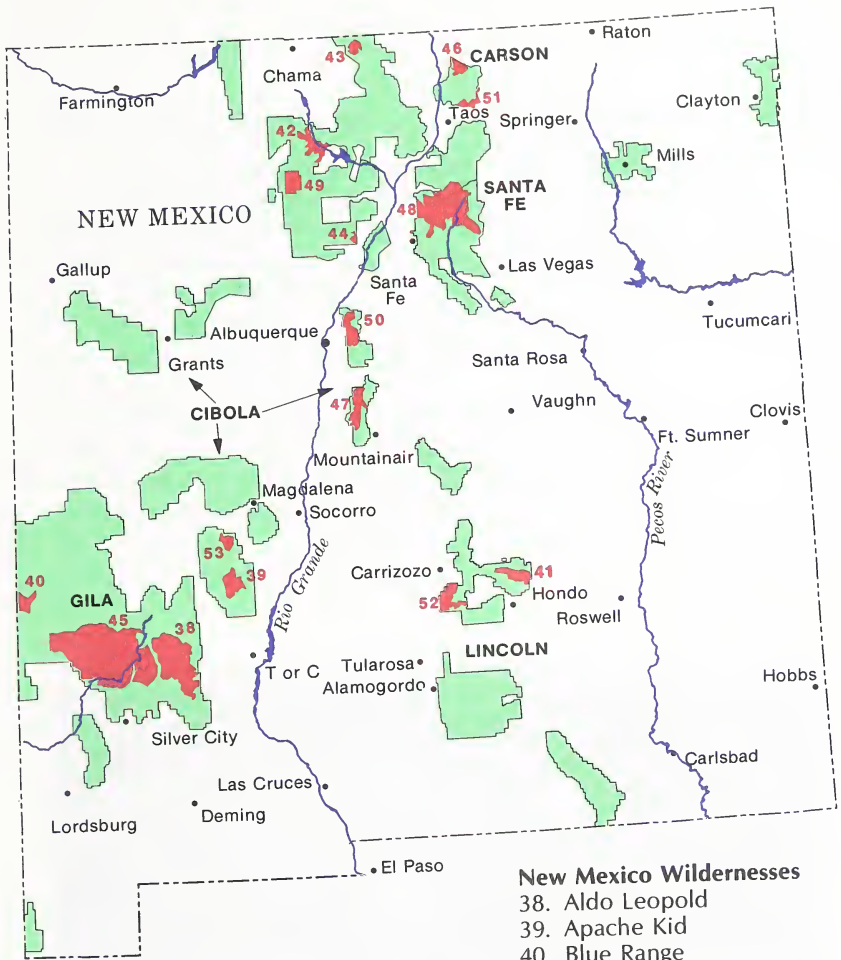
USDA Forest Service  
Public Affairs Office  
517 Gold Avenue, SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
Voice: (505) 842-3292  
TTY: (505) 842-3198

# National Forest Wilderness and Primitive Areas



## Arizona Wildernesses

1. Apache Creek
2. Bear Wallow
3. Castle Creek
4. Cedar Bench
5. Chiricahua
6. Escudilla
7. Fossil Springs
8. Four Peaks
9. Galiuro
10. Granite Mountain
11. Hellsgate
12. Juniper Mesa
13. Kachina Peaks
14. Kanab Creek
15. Kendrick Mountain
16. Mazatzal
17. Miller Peak
18. Mt. Baldy
19. Mt. Wrightson
20. Munds Mountain
21. Pajarita
22. Pine Mountain
23. Pusch Ridge
24. Red Rock — Secret Mountain
25. Rincon Mountain
26. Saddle Mountain
27. Salome
28. Salt River Canyon



- 29. Santa Teresa
- 30. Sierra Ancha
- 31. Strawberry Crater
- 32. Superstition
- 33. Sycamore Canyon
- 34. West Clear Creek
- 35. Wet Beaver
- 36. Woodchute

#### Arizona Primitive Area

- 37. Blue Range

#### New Mexico Wildernesses

- 38. Aldo Leopold
- 39. Apache Kid
- 40. Blue Range
- 41. Capitan Mountain
- 42. Chama River Canyon
- 43. Cruces Basin
- 44. Dome
- 45. Gila
- 46. Latir Peak
- 47. Manzano Mountain
- 48. Pecos
- 49. San Pedro Parks
- 50. Sandia Mountain
- 51. Wheeler Peak
- 52. White Mountain
- 53. Withington



# Arizona Wilderness Areas

## Apache Creek Wilderness

Rolling hills of juniper and piñon interspersed with granite outcrops characterize this small, remote and relatively rugged wilderness. Established in 1984, the 5,628-acre wilderness features three natural springs and several important riparian areas including Apache Creek. Elevations range from 5,200 to 6,900 feet and the area provides excellent habitat for mountain lion and numerous bird species. There are two maintained trails within this wilderness.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest's Chino Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 485, (735 N. Hwy. 89), Chino Valley, AZ 86323-0485, Phone: (520) 636-2302, TTY: (520) 636-3108.



## **Bear Wallow Wilderness**

This newly established wilderness in eastern Arizona boasts some of the largest acreage of virgin ponderosa pine in the Southwest. Only a few trails provide access into and within this area, and only limited grazing of domestic livestock in the west half has kept this area unspoiled.

Beautiful Bear Wallow Creek flows throughout the year, providing suitable habitat for the endangered Apache trout. Wildlife is abundant throughout the area. A majestic view from atop Mogollon Rim is available to the hiker from the Rim Trail on the southern boundary of the wilderness.

Information concerning this 11,080-acre wilderness is available from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Alpine Ranger District, P.O. Box 469, Alpine, AZ 85920, Phone: (520) 339-4384, TTY: (520) 339-4566.



## Castle Creek Wilderness

This wilderness of 25,517 acres sits on the eastern slopes of the Bradshaw Mountains and is characterized by extremely rugged topography with prominent granite peaks that overlook the Agua Fria River.

Elevations range from 2,800 and 7,000 feet. The primary vegetation at the lower elevations is saguaro cactus, palo verde, and mesquite. As the elevation increases, grassland species change into the chaparral community and the highest elevations have ponderosa pine, Arizona whiteoak, and alligator juniper. There are 9 maintained trails within this wilderness.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office, 344 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, AZ 86303-4398, Phone: (520) 771-4700, TTY: (520) 771-4708.



## Cedar Bench Wilderness

Located along the Verde Rim, the dividing line between the Verde and Agua Fria drainages, the Cedar Bench Wilderness is 16,005 acres in size. Elevations range from 4,500 to 6,700 feet with the primary vegetative cover being chaparral with lesser amounts of piñon pine and Utah juniper. The Verde Wild and Scenic River forms a portion of the eastern boundary of this wilderness. There are 9 maintained trails within this wilderness.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest's Verde Ranger District, P.O. Box 670 (300 E. Hwy. 260), Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0670, Phone: (520) 567-4121, TTY: (520) 567-1108.





## Chiricahua Wilderness

Established in 1933 at 18,000 acres, Chiricahua Wilderness was greatly expanded by the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act and now encompasses 87,700 acres within the Chiricahua Mountains. There is wide variation in elevation, exposure, slope, moisture, and related plant and animal life. There are many unusual birds which are more common in Mexico.

More than a century ago the mountains were hunting grounds for Cochise and Geronimo. From here Cochise and his followers defended their homeland with surprise attacks on pioneer settlements, travelers, and Army troops. Later, the mountains were part of the short-lived Chiricahua Apache Reservation.

Because of dense brush and timber, steep slopes, precipitous canyons and uncertain water, travel is difficult except on the trail system. The Rattlesnake Fire in 1994 caused severe destruction of many trails in the wilderness. Contact the district for the latest information regarding trail conditions. Campgrounds outside the wilderness provide good access for day hiking. The wilderness is administered by the Douglas Ranger District, Coronado National Forest. Further information can be obtained from the Douglas Ranger District, 3081 N. Leslie Canyon Road, Douglas, AZ 85607, Phone: (520) 364-3468 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Escudilla Wilderness

Escudilla Wilderness, designated in 1984 and containing 5,200 acres, lies atop Arizona's third highest peak, Escudilla Mountain. Its 10,912-foot elevation provides marvelous vistas. It is home to several pristine, high elevation meadows which are comprised of relatively rare plant associations. Notable landmarks in or just outside the wilderness include Profanity Ridge, Terry Flat, Toolbox Draw, and the Punchbowl.

A trail takes the visitor to Escudilla Lookout where vistas many miles distant can be absorbed. Because of the relative scarcity of water and the small size of this wilderness, day use is encouraged.

Information on trail conditions, maps, water, and other matters of interest to visitors are available from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Alpine Ranger District, P.O. Box 469, Alpine, AZ 85920, Phone: (520) 339-4384, TTY: (520) 339-4566.



## **Fossil Springs Wilderness**

The springs are located at the bottom of a steep, wide canyon approximately 1,600 feet down at the edge of the Colorado Plateau, approximately 60 miles south of Flagstaff.

The Fossil Springs Botanical Area adjacent to the wilderness is one of the most diverse riparian areas in the state. Over 30 species of trees and shrubs provide striking contrast to the surrounding desert shrub zone. The vegetative diversity creates many wildlife niches for deer, javelina, and 100 species of birds.

The area is one that has retained its integrity as an outstanding clean, pristine site. The Mail Trail and Fossil Spring Trail are within the Fossil Springs Wilderness.

Additional information can be obtained from Beaver Creek Ranger District, H.C. 64, Box 240, Rimrock, AZ 86335, Phone: (520) 567-4121.





## Four Peaks Wilderness

Four Peaks Wilderness was established in 1984, and contains approximately 60,740 acres with a major mountain rising up in its center from the desert foothills. The Four Peaks themselves are visible for many miles, and are one of the most widely recognized landmarks in central Arizona. The rapid change in elevation produces interesting and unique plant and animal combinations. Elevations range from 1,900 feet near Apache Lake to 7,600 feet on Brown's Peak.

A large part of this wilderness was burned over by a human-caused fire which was started on April 27, 1996. It will take decades for the pine-covered mountains to recover.

Visits to some parts of this wilderness can be made throughout the year, using a rather extensive trail system. A Recreation Opportunity Guide is

available which gives directions to trailheads and describes each trail. Copies are available from the Mesa Ranger District office (Tonto National Forest), P.O. Box 5800, 26 N.

MacDonald,  
Mesa, AZ  
85211-5800,  
Phone: (480)  
379-6446.



## Galiuro Wilderness

Located about 50 airline miles northeast of Tucson, the remote Galiuro Wilderness is accessible only by dirt roads. Congress set aside 52,717 acres in 1932 and then enlarged it to 76,317 acres in 1984. Administered by the Safford Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest, the Galiuro Mountains are a very steep, rugged range.

In spite of the fact that the Galiuros are lower in elevation than some surrounding mountain ranges, they offer a surprisingly rich variety of plant life. Grasses and evergreen oaks extend to the lower slopes, and ponderosa pine cloak the higher peaks. Douglas-fir and maple grow in the limited cooler, moist sites, and one grove of aspen exists on the northern side of 7,663-foot Bassett Peak, the Galiuros' highest point.

Maintained trails should be followed, since off-trail hiking is extremely difficult due to rough terrain and dense vegetation. For the hunter, this remote wilderness offers a truly rugged outdoor experience.

Additional information is available from the Safford Ranger District, P.O. Box 709 (504 5th Avenue), Safford, AZ 85548-0709, Phone: (520) 428-4150 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Granite Mountain Wilderness

An easily identifiable landmark located on the outskirts of Prescott, this 9,799-acre wilderness is characterized by rugged granite boulders, some the size of a house, stacked one atop the other to elevations that exceed 7,600 feet. The Metate Trailhead in Granite Basin is the primary portal to the wilderness which has two maintained trails. Hiking groups are limited to 15 people; equestrian groups to 10 animals. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Campfires are prohibited, however, stoves fueled by propane or white gas are permitted. There is no camping within 200 feet of Granite Mountain Trail 261. For rock climbing, maintenance of existing fixed anchors is permitted, but no new anchors are allowed.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office, 344 South Cortez Street, Prescott, AZ 86303-4398, Phone: (520) 771-4700, TTY: (520) 771-4708.



## Hellsgate Wilderness

This wilderness was established in 1984, and contains approximately 37,440 rough acres with a major canyon and perennial stream extending its entire length. Deep pools of water may be separated by impassable falls. Elevations range from 3,000 feet along the lower end of Tonto Creek to 6,400 feet on Horse Mountain. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit this area, however trails are rare and access is limited. The tiny area known as Hell's Gate is too fragile to be used by livestock.

A group size of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced within this area yearlong.

A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available from the Payson Ranger District office (Tonto National Forest), 1009 E. Highway 260, Payson, AZ 85541, Phone: (520) 474-7900.





## Juniper Mesa Wilderness

Established in 1984, the 7,554-acre wilderness is characterized by the flat topped mesa from which its name is derived. Elevations range from 5,600 feet on the southeast side near Juniper Spring to 7,000 feet on the west side near George Wood Canyon and Gobblers Knob. The primary vegetation on the steep southern slopes is piñon pine and Utah juniper, and on the northern slopes, ponderosa pine and alligator juniper.

A great variety of wildlife can be found in the area. Black bear, elk, mule deer, bobcat, and Abert's squirrel are relatively common. There are no perennial water sources present, and the reliability of springs may be questioned during long periods of dry weather. There are 7 maintained trails within this wilderness.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest's Chino Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 485 (735 N. Hwy. 89), Chino Valley, AZ 86323-0485, Phone: (520) 636-2302, TTY: (520) 636-3108.



## Kachina Peaks Wilderness

Located just north of Flagstaff, the Kachina Peaks Wilderness is part of a large, heavily vegetated composite volcano 7,400 to 12,643 feet high including Humphreys Peak, the highest point in Arizona. The "Peaks" exhibit a rich diversity of past geologic events such as lava flows, violent volcanic explosions, glaciation, erosion, and frost action.

The only Arctic-Alpine vegetation in the state is found on the Peaks in a fragile 2-square mile zone and contains a threatened plant: *Senecio franciscanus*. Visitors must stay on designated trails and there is no camping allowed above timberline.

The Peaks are outstanding examples of past volcanic activity and preserve the best example of Ice Age glaciation in Arizona in lateral and medial moraines and former stream beds.

Recreational opportunities include day hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter camping, snow and ice climbing, small and big game hunting, and natural history appreciation.

The Peaks are sacred to several western Indian tribes including the Zuni, Havasupai, Hopi and Navajo. Please respect their religious rights while visiting this wilderness.

Information and maps are available from the Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Hwy. 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, Phone: (520) 526-0866 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Kanab Creek Wilderness

Kanab Creek Wilderness lies in the southwestern corner of the North Kaibab Ranger District and abuts the western edge of the Kaibab Plateau. Kanab Creek is the largest tributary flowing into the Grand Canyon from the north, with its origin some 50 miles away in southern Utah. Kanab Creek and its tributaries have cut a network of vertical-walled gorges deep into the Kanab and Kaibab plateaus. Within these walls lie a maze of water and wind carved fins, knobs, potholes and indescribable sculptured forms. Elevations range from near 2,000 feet at the river to 6,000 feet at rim's edge. The upper reaches serve as a winter range for the Kaibab mule deer. Vegetation is varied and sparse except for heavy riparian growth in the creek bottom. There is very little dependable water supply during summer months when temperatures approach 120 degrees, yet spring and fall are pleasant. There are numerous trails in this rather hostile environment, but many are poorly marked and infrequently maintained. Limited and arduous access to the area

adds a measure of remoteness that says this is wilderness.

Additional information is available from the North Kaibab Ranger District, P.O. Box 248, Fredonia, AZ 86022, Phone: (520) 643-7395.





## Kendrick Mountain Wilderness

Kendrick Mountain Wilderness is located on the eastern edge of the Williams Ranger District, straddling a boundary with the Coconino National Forest.

Kendrick Mountain is one of many remnants of the vast San Francisco Mountain volcanic field that stretches from near Seligman on the west and east beyond Flagstaff to Canyon Diablo. Kendrick Mountain, with an elevation of 10,418 feet is forested to the very top with ponderosa pine, fir, spruce, oak and aspen. Much of the steeper parts of Kendrick contain old growth forest that contributes valuable habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, bear, and Northern goshawk. The north and west slope, with large meadows, is a preferred area for elk and deer. There are three well established trails on Kendrick Mountain that offer fantastic views of canyon lands on the north,

striking panoramic views of the volcanic field, and to the south, the distant red rock of the Oak Creek/Sycamore Canyon country.

Additional information is available from the Williams Ranger District in Williams, Phone: (520) 635-5600 or the Peaks Ranger District in Flagstaff, Phone: (520) 526-0866.



## Mazatzal Wilderness

The Mazatzal Wilderness now contains over 252,500 acres of the Tonto and Coconino National Forests. Established in 1940 and expanded to its present size in 1984, its name is from an old Indian culture in Mexico, and is correctly pronounced "Mah-zaht-zahl," meaning "land of the deer."

The eastern side of this wilderness consists predominantly of brush or pine-covered mountains, sometimes broken by narrow, vertical-walled canyons. On its west side below the steep brush-covered foothills, the Verde River flows through the Sonoran Desert found there. This river was designated by Congress in 1984 as Arizona's only Wild River Area.

Elevations range from 2,060 feet along the Verde River to 7,903 feet on Mazatzal Peak. There is an extensive system of trails; their condition varies from very good to very poor. Several are unsuited for horses.

A group size of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced within this wilderness yearlong.

Visitors may check with the Cave Creek Ranger District office (Phone: (480) 595-3300) for information about the west side of the wilderness,

or the Payson Ranger District office (Phone: (520) 474-7900) for information on the east side. A Recreation Opportunity Guide is also available.



## Miller Peak Wilderness

Located just 6 miles south of Sierra Vista in the southern half of the Huachuca Mountains, this 20,190-acre wilderness was established in 1984. Characterized by sheer cliffs several hundred feet in height, the area is also known for large, intensive fires. A considerable area once covered by pine and Douglas-fir has, at least temporarily, been converted to oak and grass vegetation.

Miller Peak Wilderness is one of the most rugged, wildlife-filled areas in all of southern Arizona. Elevations range from 5,200 feet to 9,466 feet at Miller Peak itself. Well-maintained trails go to the unit's major points of interest and lead to some of the most exceptional panoramas in southern Arizona and Mexico. The Huachucas are famous as a haven for bird life, and more than 170 species, including 14 species of hummingbirds, have been observed. More than 60 species of reptiles and 78 species of mammals also are found in this range.

The area has a rich and colorful mining and ranching history, with some remains of old mining operations still visible.

Additional information is available from the Coronado National Forest's Sierra Vista Ranger District, 5990 S. Hwy. 92, Hereford, AZ 85615, Phone: (520) 378-0311 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Mt. Baldy Wilderness

At 7,000 acres, Mount Baldy is one of the smallest wildernesses. This, coupled with its great popularity, has forced limits to be placed on the size of groups using the area. Hiking and riding groups should not exceed 12 persons and the maximum number in a group for overnight camping is 6.

Two trails, each approximately 7 miles long, lead into the wilderness and join each other near the top. The half-mile spur trail which leads to the summit and the summit itself are on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The Mt. Baldy summit has religious significance and has been closed by the Apaches. Anyone entering is subject to arrest by tribal law enforcement officers.

From 8,700 feet to 11,000 feet, the topography varies from gently sloping timbered benches to extremely steep, rockstrewn mountainsides cut by deep canyons. Big game is common and there are 5 miles of fishing stream. The wilderness is administered by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Springerville Ranger District, P.O. Box 760, Springerville, AZ 85938, Phone: (520) 333-4372, TTY: (520) 333-6335.





## Mount Wrightson Wilderness

Lying at the core of the Santa Rita Mountains about 30 miles south of Tucson, this 25,260-acre area was dedicated by the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984.

Surrounded on all sides by semi-arid hills and sloping savannah, the center of the wilderness is striking Mt. Wrightson, which at 9,453 feet is the highest point in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. Its majesty is accentuated by the fact that it rises a full 7,000 feet above the valley floor and can be seen from Tucson and surrounding communities.

Mt. Wrightson's stream-fed canyons are the source of an exceptional abundance of animal and plant life. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir dominate the higher elevations. Rough hillsides, deep canyons, and lofty ridges and peaks characterize the wilderness throughout. It is an extremely well-known area for bird-watchers, backpackers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. A developed recreation area in Madera Canyon lies at the foot of the wilderness for both picnicking and camping. The area is internationally renowned as a unique habitat for a variety of both common and rare birds.

The Coronado National Forest's Nogales Ranger District manages the area and can be contacted for further information at 303 Old Tucson Road, Nogales, AZ 85621, Phone: (520) 281-2296 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Munds Mountain Wilderness

Munds Mountain Wilderness preserves many of the unique red rock formations just east of Sedona, as well as some of the traditional high mesas common to the area. Elevations range from 3,600 feet to 6,800 feet. The country is characterized by moderate to steep slopes along Mogollon Rim.

Munds and Lee Mountains are unique geologic areas along the Mogollon Rim, including extensive outcroppings of Coconino and Supai sandstone on the cliff faces, and ramp basalt flows throughout.

There is a great diversity of vegetation and wildlife species and outstanding riparian habitat in upper Woods Canyon. Desert sagebrush, desert grass and short grass plains, oak brush, chaparral, oak woodland, and piñon-juniper woodland types are common. There are small concentrations of ponderosa pine, and the major drainages contain vital riparian zones.

This wilderness is perfect for those who enjoy more primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, swimming, bird watching, rock climbing, and hunting. The area is a photographers delight due to the red rock formations and rugged vistas.

Information and maps are available from the Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86339, Phone: (520) 282-4119 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Pajarita Wilderness

Administered by the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest, this area was established as wilderness in 1984. Located approximately 15 miles west of Nogales, the only access is Ruby Road which is unpaved for much of its length.

Although comprising only 7,420 acres, the area is extremely important to wildlife and plant life. Hugging the international border with Mexico, Pajarita's canyons—principally Sycamore and Peñasco Canyons—provide an important corridor for wildlife migration north and south. Sycamore Canyon is widely known and esteemed both as a popular hiking spot, and even more importantly, as the habitat for rare and unusual plants and animals too numerous to list.

Pajarita is the only non-mountainous wilderness within the Coronado National Forest. Although in an area of rolling hills with elevations ranging from 3,800 to 4,800 feet, the terrain within the canyons is rough with steep slopes and vertical cliffs. Vegetation is largely oak woodland, with riparian zones along the narrow canyon bottoms. Abundant wildflowers put on an annual display of color extremely popular with photographers.

Additional information is available from the Nogales Ranger District, 303 Old Tucson Road, Nogales, AZ 85621, Phone: (520) 281-2296 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).





## Pine Mountain Wilderness

This 20,100-acre wilderness straddles the boundary between the Prescott and Tonto National Forests. Lying along the high Verde Rim, the area stands as an island of tall, green timber, surrounded by brush-covered desert mountains with hot, dry mesas and deep canyons. The trees are predominantly ponderosa pine. A great variety of wildlife and plants unfold as the hiker or horseback rider climbs through several life zones en route to the top of Pine Mountain at 6,800 feet. Big game finds shelter in the heavy cover on steep slopes and canyons. There are 6 maintained trails within this wilderness.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest's Verde Ranger District, P.O. Box 670 (300 E. Hwy. 260), Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0670, Phone: (520) 567-4121, TTY: (520) 567-1108.



## Pusch Ridge Wilderness

Pusch Ridge Wilderness extends from the desert floor adjacent to metropolitan Tucson to peaks covered with pine, fir, aspen, and maple. The great variety of vegetation and wildlife found as one ascends from 2,800 to 9,000 feet above sea level is truly remarkable. Lower elevations are extremely steep and rugged with spectacular rocky bluffs and peaks. Water is scarce, but several live streams originating on the highest peaks offer some relief from the essentially dry Santa Catalina Mountains.

There is an extensive trail system, and opportunities exist for day hiking as well as extended backpacking. Access can be gained easily at trailheads near the city, or by driving a paved highway to the upper elevations.

Part of the Coronado National Forest, this 56,933-acre wilderness was created in 1978 and is administered by the Santa Catalina Ranger District, 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson, AZ 85750, Phone: (520) 749-8700 (TTY available ). **Contact the district office for restrictions regarding dogs and off-trail hiking.**



## Red Rock - Secret Mountain Wilderness

Twenty miles south of Flagstaff, Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness includes spectacular red, tan, and buff cliffs that mark the edge of the Colorado Plateau. The country plunges as much as 1,500 feet into canyons that drain into Oak Creek and the Verde River. Secret Mountain and Wilson Mountain are high mesas jutting out into the lower country.

This is an area of great climatic variation. The high rims are cool and moist most of the year, except for May and June. The lower end of the unit near Sedona has a much warmer climate. The wide variety of vegetative types provide habitat for equally diverse wildlife populations. There are at least 250 species of vertebrates in the area including elk, mule and white tail deer, javelina, coyote, rabbit, mountain lion, and bear. Of these, 60 percent depend on the riparian habitat during at least part of their life cycles. The wilderness offers outstanding solitude because of topography and vegetation. Opportunities for primitive recreation are many.

Contact the Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Hwy. 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, Phone: (520) 526-0866 (TTY available for the hearing impaired) for information on the north side. The Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86339, Phone: (520) 282-4119 (TTY available), can provide information on the south side.





## Rincon Mountain Wilderness

This sharply rising, mountainous wilderness of 38,590 acres was established in 1984 and is located just east of Tucson, embracing three sides of the Saguaro National Park. In fact, one of the primary functions of the Rincon Wilderness is to complement the Saguaro National Park and to protect the complete ecosystems found there.

Several trails cross the area, and hikers can quickly find complete solitude in its canyon bottoms or along the ridge lines to the high elevations of the Rincons. However, access to the area is rather difficult. Only 4-wheel-drive roads lead to the area except on the east side in Happy Valley, served by Forest Road 35, which is generally passable to conventional vehicles. A well-developed trail system also provides access from the National Park.

The area is dominated by very rocky, steep terrain with elevations ranging from 3,600 feet to 7,700 feet. At higher elevations, the dramatic rock outcrops and deep canyons make many areas difficult to reach on foot and virtually impossible on horseback. Vegetation varies from desert grassland at the lower elevations to an oak-juniper-piñon pine woodland at higher elevations.

The wilderness is administered by the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. Additional information is available from the district office at 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson, AZ 85750, Phone: (520) 749-8700 (TTY available for hearing impaired). National Park information is available at: Saguaro National Park Headquarters, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730, Phone: (520) 733-5153.



## Saddle Mountain Wilderness

Saddle Mountain Wilderness is located in the extreme south-eastern portion of the North Kaibab Ranger District. Elevations vary from 6,000 feet on Marble Canyon Rim to 8,000 feet on Saddle Mountain. The name originates from the profile of a prominent ridge that appears from the distance as a saddle, horn and all. The main ridge falls off into sheer walls on the south to form the Nankoweap Rim. The terrain is very steep and rocky, and bounded on three sides by steep canyons. A lightning-caused fire in 1960 consumed approximately 8,000 acres and set the stage for prime deer habitat: regrowth has resulted in a dense mass of locust, oak, aspen, elderberry and the re-establishment of a young coniferous forest. The benefit of fire is evidenced by the thriving wildlife of the area, including the only herd of bison in a National Forest wilderness in the U.S. The Nankoweap Trail that parallels the main ridge offers a sense of great open spaces, with spectacular views of the Grand Canyon, Marble Canyon Gorge, Cocks Combs, House Rock Valley and Vermillion Cliffs from vantage points along the trail. The uniqueness of the wilderness is found in a stream in North Canyon, habitat of the threatened Apache Trout, the only flowing perennial stream on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

Additional information is available from the North Kaibab Ranger District, P.O. Box 248, Fredonia, AZ 86022, Phone: (520) 643-7395.





## Salome Wilderness

This wilderness was established in 1984 and contains approximately 18,530 acres, with a major canyon running practically its entire length. The upper reaches of Salome Creek and Workman Creek are small perennial streams snaking their way through the bottom of this scenic canyon. Pools of water can be found nearly yearlong, but cross-country travel is very difficult.

Elevations range from 2,600 feet at the lower end of Salome Creek to 6,500 feet on Hopkins Mountain. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit this area; however, trails are rare and access to the wilderness is limited.

A group size of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced within this wilderness yearlong.

Information is available from the Pleasant Valley Ranger District office (Tonto National Forest), P.O. Box 450, Young, AZ 85554, Phone: (520) 462-4300.



## Salt River Canyon Wilderness

This wilderness contains approximately 32,100 very rugged acres and was established in 1984. The Salt River and its spectacular canyon bisect the wilderness for its entire length. Elevations range from 2,200 feet at the canyon's lower end to 4,200 feet on White Ledge Mountain. This area can be visited practically any time, however there are no maintained trails within the entire wilderness. Travel is basically done by raft or kayak during the short and dangerous river-running season.

**Mandatory Visitor Permits** are required between March 1 and May 15. The application period for these permits is December 1 through January 31 each year.

Information is available from the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, Phone: (602) 225-5200, TTY: (602) 225-5395 and from the Globe Ranger District, Rt. 1, Box 33, Globe, AZ 85501, Phone: (520) 402-6200. A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available which gives directions to river access points and describes the rapids along the river.



## Santa Teresa Wilderness

The Santa Teresas are located in Coronado National Forest, about 30 miles west of Safford. They are characterized by a network of rugged mountains, deep canyons and large mesas. Elevations rise from less than 4,000 feet in the canyon bottoms to nearly 7,500 feet at the summit of Cottonwood Peak. The wilderness, consisting of 26,780 acres, is generally dominated by chaparral vegetation with stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir along the north flank and crest of Cottonwood Peak.

The central part of the wilderness is dominated by Holdout and Mud Spring mesas. Holdout Canyon typifies the Santa Teresas because its extreme ruggedness provides extraordinary solitude. Trails are hard to follow, due to their remoteness and lack of maintenance. Water is available seasonally in a few isolated springs. Access into the wilderness is over many miles of unpaved, private land which may be closed at the landowners' discretion. A wide variety of game and non-game animals are present, including black bear and peregrine falcon.

Additional information is available from the Safford Ranger District, P.O. Box 709 (504 5th Avenue), Safford, AZ 85548-0709, Phone: (520) 428-4150 (TTY is available for the hearing impaired).



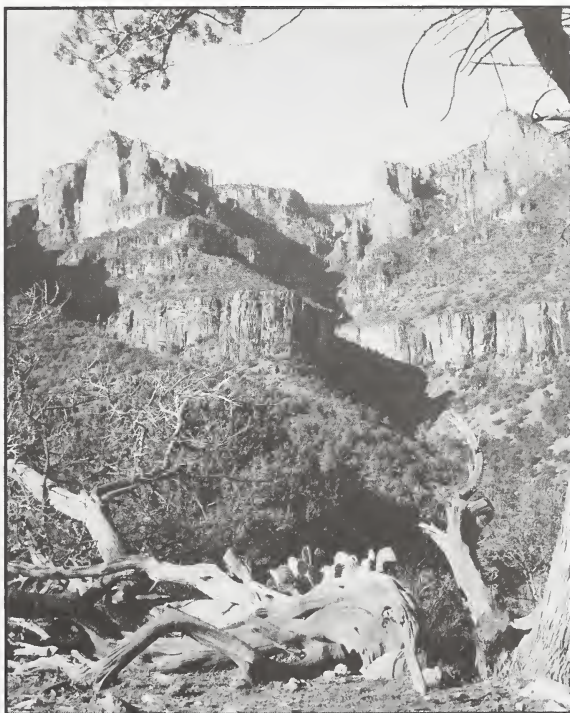
## Sierra Ancha Wilderness

First established in 1933 as a "Primitive Area", this 20,850-acre wilderness is full of surprises, and is a pleasure to explore. While not large in acres, this very special wilderness includes precipitious box canyons, high cliffs, and pine-covered mountains.

The extremely rough topography limits (and often prohibits) cross-country travel, however there is an extensive system of trails (trail condition varies from good to poor). A wide variety of plant and animal species are found here—from those found in the desert to those found at 8,000 feet.

A group size of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced within this wilderness yearlong.

A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available from the Pleasant Valley Ranger District office (Tonto National Forest), P.O. Box 450, Young, AZ 85554, Phone: (520) 462-4300.





## Strawberry Crater Wilderness

Located 20 miles north and east of Flagstaff, Strawberry Crater Wilderness is gently rolling piñon-juniper, cinder terrain, about 5,500 to 6,000 feet elevation. The wilderness is dominated at the southern tip by low cinder cones and cut at the northwestern corner by the rugged lava flow of Strawberry Crater.

Strawberry Crater is part of the San Francisco Mountain volcanic field, which contains some 600 craters and cones, and is itself about 50,000 to 100,000 years old.

This wilderness offers the visitor an excellent opportunity to experience the sense of time and endless horizon presented by piñon-juniper zones. From the many low cinder cones, there are good views of the Painted Desert, Hopi Buttes, and mesas of the Little Colorado River valley. The area offers opportunities for day hiking, backpacking, and camping. There are game animals and small mammals throughout the area. The area presents opportunities for solitude and exploring interesting geological and archeological features. These features, and the twisted, esthetically pleasing junipers, are excellent subjects for the photographer.

Contact the Peaks Ranger District, 5075 N. Hwy. 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, Phone: (520) 526-0866 (TTY available for the hearing impaired), for more information.



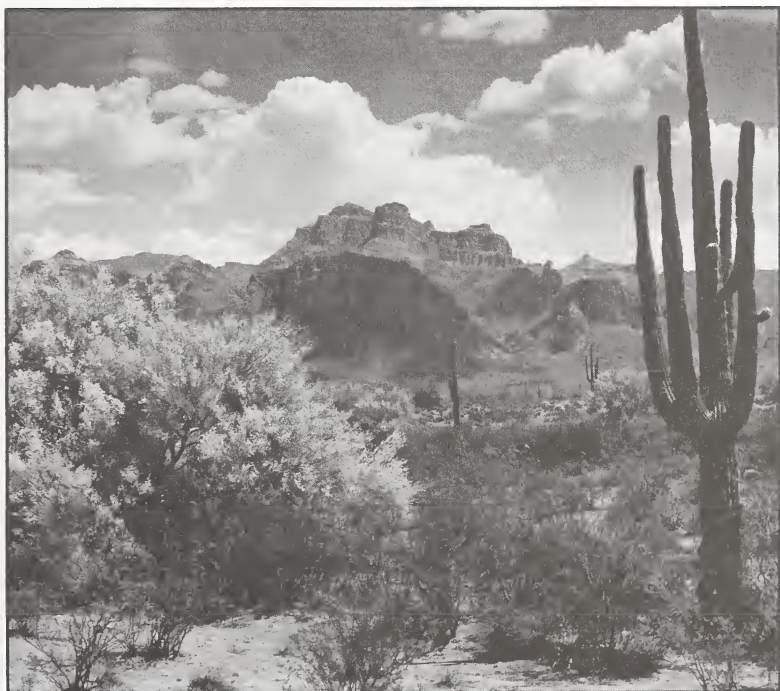


## Superstition Wilderness

This wilderness was first designated in 1939, and was expanded to its present size in 1984. It now contains approximately 160,200 acres. There is a well-developed trail system, and the western end of the wilderness receives heavy use during the cooler times of the year. Trail conditions vary from fair to very poor, and several trails are unsuitable for horses.

The area is starkly beautiful and often rugged, but can be inhospitable to those not equipped to meet nature on her own terms. Searing heat and a shortage of water are typical conditions in the summer. Bitter cold, rains (and even snowstorms) may occur in the winter. Rumors still abound concerning lost gold mines, and "secret maps," etc., are still being sold to the unwary.

A Recreation Opportunity Guide is available from the Mesa Ranger District office (Tonto National Forest), P.O. Box 5800, 26 N. MacDonald, Mesa, AZ 85211-5800, Phone: (480) 379-6446.



## Sycamore Canyon Wilderness

Established in 1935, this area contains a unique canyon-land environment. The canyon cuts through the Mogollon Rim which marks the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau. It winds for 20 miles along Sycamore Creek and at places stretches 7 miles from rim to rim. Wind and water have exposed 7 geological associations of plants and animals set in a spectacular setting of red sandstone, white limestone, and brown lava. Camping is limited by the often unreliable water sources.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Coconino National Forest's Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86339, (520) 282-4119; Kaibab National Forest and the City of Williams Visitor Center, 200 Railroad Avenue, Williams, AZ 86046, (520) 635-4061; Prescott National Forest's Chino Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 485 (735 N. Hwy. 89), Chino Valley, AZ 86323-0485, Phone: (520) 636-2302, TTY: (520) 636-3108.



## West Clear Creek Wilderness

Located 25 miles northeast of Camp Verde, West Clear Creek is one of the most rugged, remote canyons in northern Arizona.

Clear Creek Canyon is the longest of the canyons cutting through Mogollon Rim, the edge of the Colorado Plateau.

In spite of the short distance from the northern to southern boundary, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation by virtue of the very steep canyon walls. A trail starts at Bull Pen Ranch and follows the creek eastward for a few miles to climb up the northern slope to the rim. This access is fairly easy, even for fishermen or inexperienced hikers. The Calloway, Maxwell and Tramway Trails provide access from the rim to the canyon bottom.

In the main, narrow part of the canyon, there are no trails. It is necessary to wade or swim in many places when hiking from one end of the canyon to the other so that even the most seasoned hiker will find lots of challenge. The canyon is wild and primitive. Visitors must plan trips carefully.

For more information, contact the Coconino National Forest's Long Valley Ranger District, HC 31, Box 68, Happy Jack, AZ 86024, Phone: (520) 354-2216 (TTY available for the hearing impaired) or the Beaver Creek Ranger District, H.C. 64, Box 240, Rimrock, AZ 86335, Phone: (520) 567-4121.



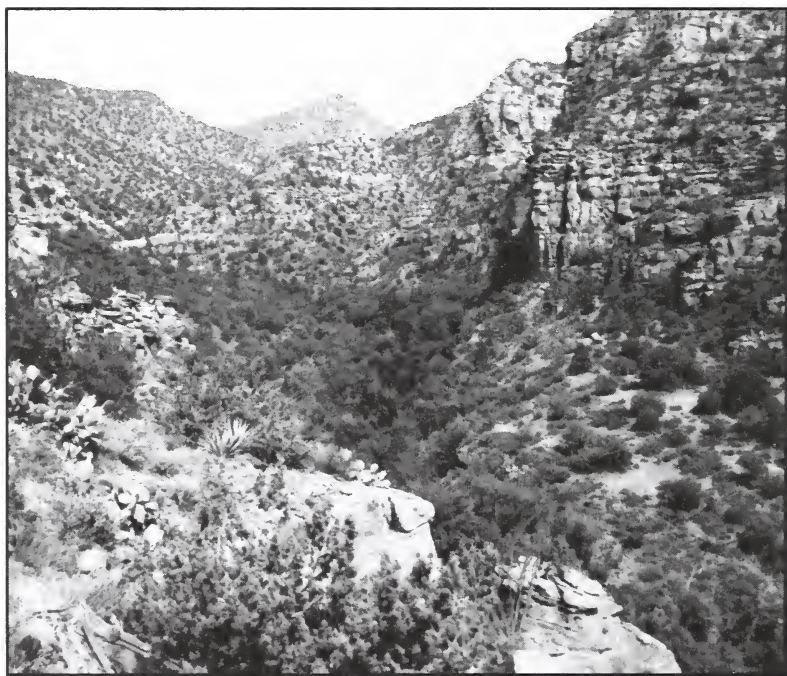


## **Wet Beaver Wilderness**

Wet Beaver is a steep-walled canyon cutting into the rim of the Colorado Plateau. Supai sandstone and shale form striking red cliffs along the lower canyon.

This wilderness is a benchmark of pristine riparian habitats and excellent water quality; an excellent example of one of Arizona's finest and rarest resources, a perennially flowing desert stream. Opportunities for primitive recreation are further enhanced by the narrow twisting character of the canyon which offers seclusion, even with relatively high use. Two major trails, Apache Maid and Bell Trail, offer easy access to the rim country portions of this wilderness.

For more information, contact the Coconino National Forest's Beaver Creek Ranger District, H.C. 64, Box 240, Rimrock, AZ 86335, Phone: (520) 567-4121.



## Woodchute Wilderness

This small wilderness offers relatively easy access and spectacular views of the San Francisco Peaks and panoramic vistas of central Arizona. Created in 1984, the 5,923-acre wilderness ranges in elevation from 5,500 to 7,800 feet. Ponderosa pine is the dominate overstory species located at the upper elevations which gradually changes to piñon pine and Utah juniper at the lower and relatively drier elevations. There is one maintained trail within this wilderness.

Use of topographic maps is recommended. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Prescott National Forest's Verde Ranger District, P.O. Box 670 (300 E. Hwy. 260), Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0670, (520) 567-4121, TTY: (520) 567-1108; or the Chino Valley Ranger District, P.O. Box 485 (735 N. Hwy. 89), Chino Valley, AZ 86323-0485, Phone: (520) 636-2302, TTY: (520) 636-3108.





# Arizona Primitive Area

## Blue Range Primitive Area

This 173,762-acre area, designated in 1933, is now completely within the state of Arizona. The other 29,304-acre portion in New Mexico became the new Blue Range Wilderness with passage of the 1980 New Mexico Wilderness Act.

Lying at the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau, the Blue Range is rugged and beautiful with many geologic and scenic attractions, including timbered ridges and deep canyons. The Mogollon Rim, made famous as the "Tonto Rim" in Zane Grey's books, crosses the area from west to east. This rim, unique both from geological and ecological standpoints, is further enhanced by the spectacular Blue River Canyon and river. There is spruce and fir in the high country, and ponderosa pine, piñon and juniper in lower areas.

Deer, elk, and other big and small game find food and shelter in the primitive area's more remote reaches.

Trail access is fairly good, but prospective visitors are reminded that this is big, rough, generally dry country. Inquire at Ranger District offices at Clifton or Alpine and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' offices in Springerville for seasonal information and maps.

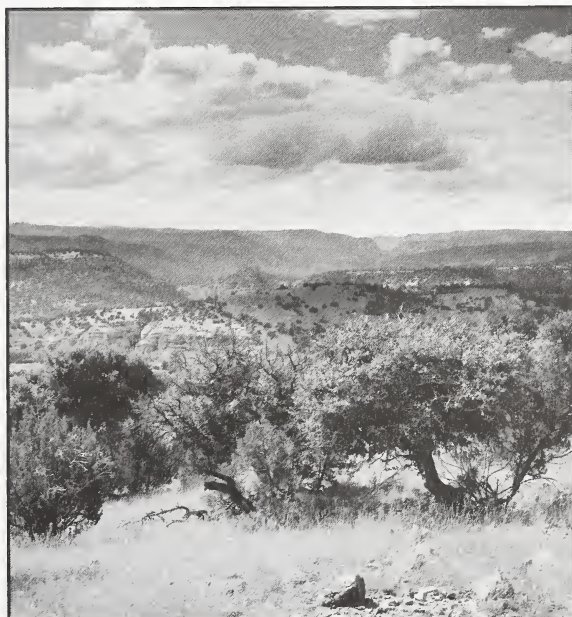


# New Mexico Wilderness Areas

## Aldo Leopold Wilderness

Aldo Leopold Wilderness is located astride the crest of the Black Range of southwestern New Mexico and is a portion of the original Gila Wilderness fostered by Aldo Leopold. Rising from hot, dry desert and semi-desert, the Black Range stands as a prominent land feature from nearly all directions. Aldo Leopold Wilderness is 202,016 acres in size and contains the most rugged and wild portion of this mountain range. The deep canyons and precipitous timbered ridges typical of this area extend to the east, south, and west and support a natural blending of resources making the area outstanding as a wilderness. The mark of man and evidence of his activities are relatively obscure. Over a wide range in elevation, a network of deep canyons, rincons, timbered benches and many high vista points offer solitude and an opportunity for the visitor to escape the clutches of a mechanistic civilization. The superlative beauty of this wild and broken country is a natural setting for spiritual refreshment through self-evaluation.

Maps and additional information can be obtained from the Black Range Ranger District, 1804 North Date Street, T or C, NM



87901, Phone: (505) 894-6677 (TTY available for the hearing impaired) or the Wilderness Ranger District, HC 68, Box 50, Mimbres, NM 88049, Phone: (505) 536-2250 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).

## Apache Kid Wilderness

This 44,650-acre wilderness designated by Congress in 1980 includes the higher elevations of the southern San Mateo Mountains. The topography is rugged, with many narrow, steep canyons bisecting high mountain peaks. Vegetation includes piñon-juniper in lower elevations; ponderosa pine in middle elevations; and spruce, fir, and aspen in higher elevations.

This wilderness was named after the Apache Kid, a renegade Indian who angered local ranchers with his raids. A posse trailed him to Blue Mountain, killed him, and blazed a nearby tree which is still visible today.

A trail system of 68 miles, one-third of which are in a primitive condition, provides access into the area. Water is limited to less than a dozen somewhat dependable locations. Information on current conditions can be obtained from the Cibola National Forest's Magdalena Ranger District, Box 45, Magdalena, NM 87825, Phone: (505) 854-2281.





## Blue Range Wilderness

The Blue Range Wilderness is located entirely within the State of New Mexico in the Blue Range Mountains approximately 65 miles northwest of Silver City. The famous Mogollon Rim crosses the area from west to east. The area is accessible by forest roads from U.S. 180 on the north and east.

A pleasing mix of all resources combine to make this 29,304-acre area outstanding as a wilderness where the mark of man and his activities is relatively obscure. A visitor can be virtually isolated from the stresses of modern civilization and gain spiritual refreshment through self-evaluation. The deep, rugged canyons, steep timbered ridges, the sweeping reaches of stark broken country, the solitude and a sense of being close to creation make this area unique in its setting.

Maps and additional information can be obtained from the Gila National Forest's Glenwood Ranger District, Box 8, Glenwood, NM 88039, Phone: (505) 539-2481 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Capitan Mountains Wilderness

This wilderness, designated in 1980, includes 35,822 acres of very rugged terrain which varies from pinyon-juniper woodland at 6,500 feet to Douglas-fir at 10,000 feet. The main east-west ridge has many meadows, mixed conifer stands and aspen groves, while steep, rocky slopes, numerous canyons, and large rock outcrops comprise the north and south sides. Trail access is fairly good, but visitors are reminded that this is steep, rough, and generally dry country.

This small mountain range is unique in that it is one of the few ranges that runs in an east-west direction. The area is well known for its large populations of mule deer and black bear and also for the location where Smokey Bear, the nation's living symbol of fire prevention, was found as a cub in 1951.

Wilderness information and maps are available from the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office in Alamogordo, Sacramento Ranger District in Cloudcroft, Guadalupe Ranger District in Carlsbad, and the Smokey Bear Ranger District, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345, Phone: (505) 257-4095.





## Chama River Canyon Wilderness

This 50,300-acre wilderness created in 1978 includes a 6-mile segment of the Chama River with the many-hued sandstone bluffs rising to high rims on both sides. This river segment is included within the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Trail access is poor. A wide range of elevations and aspects from riverside to canyon rim provide numerous micro climates bearing piñon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, and fir. River water levels vary widely as water is held or released by the El Vado Lake dam upstream, which supplies a changing flow for river runners.

The Coyote Ranger District of the Santa Fe and Canjilon Ranger District of the Carson National Forest are nearest to the wilderness and can supply information. Write or call: Coyote Ranger District, P.O. Box 160, Coyote, NM 87012, Phone: (505) 638-5526; Canjilon Ranger District, P.O. Box 488, Canjilon, NM 87515, Phone: (505) 684-2489.



## **Cruces Basin Wilderness**

This 18,902-acre area is a rolling mountain plateau cut by several perennial streams and is 8,600 to 10,900 feet in elevation. Ridge tops have aspen and spruce-fir and the bottoms are open grasslands. The area is a key elk summer range.

Information on the trail system and water sources can be obtained from the Tres Piedras Ranger District, P.O. Box 38, Tres Piedras, NM 87577, Phone: (505) 758-8678.



## Dome Wilderness

This 5,200-acre area is the smallest National Forest wilderness in the southwest. Situated adjacent to Bandelier Wilderness in Bandelier National Monument, the area provides a continuous expanse of primitive canyon-land environments similar to those found within the National Monument. The trail system accessing the area also provides access into the west side of Bandelier Wilderness with several trailheads located along Forest Road 289. Elevations range from 8,200 feet near St. Peters Dome to 5,800 feet at the base of Sanchez Canyon. Special care should be taken not to disturb the many prehistoric ruins scattered throughout the area.

Additional information may be obtained from the Santa Fe National Forest's Jemez Ranger District, P.O. Box 150, Jemez Springs, NM 87025, Phone: (505) 829-3535 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).



## Gila Wilderness

The Gila Wilderness is located in southwestern New Mexico, lying west of the Continental Divide in Catron and Grant Counties. It is about 25 miles north of Silver City, 3 miles east of Glenwood, 44 miles south of Reserve, and 22 miles northwest of Mimbres.

Its mosaic of vegetative types, climatic conditions, and topographic features, enriched by abundant solitude, offer a challenge to visitors. The variety of plant and animal life, supported by varied ecologic niches, provides a greater opportunity for informal nature study and scientific study than is available in most southwestern wilderness areas. The pleasant blending of natural resources in an untrammelled state, where the mark of man and his activities is relatively obscure, makes this wilderness an outstanding

area to visit. An extensive trail system provides a variety of hiking and horseback opportunities within a total land area of 558,065 acres. Additional information on specific trail opportunities within the vicinity of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument may be obtained directly from the Gila Visitor Center, HC 68, Box 100, Silver City, NM 88061, Phone: (505) 536-9461 (TTY available for the hearing impaired).





## Latir Peak Wilderness

This wilderness of 20,506 acres makes up the northern tip of the east division of Carson National Forest. With three peaks over 12,500 feet, there is an abundance of alpine-tundra "high country." Most of the area is drained by the Lake Fork of Cabresto Creek which originates at Heart Lake and is impounded just outside the wilderness in Cabresto Lake, the main trailhead for those going into the wilderness. Many species of wildlife indigenous to the Hudsonian zone of the southern Rocky Mountains can be found in this remote and spectacular area. The renowned Latir Lakes are located to the north of this wilderness on private land. Permits to visit these lakes can be purchased by writing or calling RCCLA, Costilla, NM 87524, Phone: (505) 586-0542.

Additional information can be obtained from the Questa Ranger District, P.O. Box 110, Questa, NM 87556, Phone: (505) 586-0520.



## Manzano Mountain Wilderness

Occupying mainly the west slope of the Manzano Mountain range, this wilderness ranges from piñon-juniper woodland at 5,000 feet to ponderosa pine and aspen at the 10,000-foot crest. Terrain is steep and rugged, cut with canyons and rock outcrops. A well-developed trail system is little used. Road access to trailheads is good. Camping is limited by a lack of reliable water sources.

The wilderness contains 36,970 acres and was established by Congress in the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978. Administered by the Cibola National Forest, information is also available from the Mountainair and Sandia Ranger District offices. Write or call: Mountainair Ranger District, P.O. Box 69, Mountainair, NM 87036-0069, Phone: (505) 847-2990; Sandia Ranger District, 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, NM 87059, Phone: (505) 281-3304.



## Pecos Wilderness

The Pecos Wilderness, designated in 1933 and containing 223,333 acres lies at the southern end of the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountains, at the headwaters of the Pecos River. From its origin, the Pecos flows 13.5 miles and is designated "wild" in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It includes some of the most beautiful and scenic country in New Mexico. Excellent fishing and hunting, magnificent scenery, and quiet solitude attract many visitors. Truchas Peak, second highest in New Mexico, provides a challenge for mountain climbers and ecologists who may observe rare species of plants and animals. Many lakes, more than 150 miles of streams, a 100-foot waterfall, and innumerable springs are in the area.

An extensive trail system provides many opportunities for both day use and camping. Camping and other uses at some lakes and other areas are regulated to prevent damage to the fragile environment.

Administered jointly by the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, the wilderness encompasses parts of the Pecos/Las Vegas, Espanola, and Camino Real Ranger Districts. Maps and information are available at these Forest Service offices. Phone: Pecos/Las Vegas at (505) 757-6121; Española at (505) 753-7331; or Camino Real at (505) 587-2255.



## San Pedro Parks Wilderness

A high, moist plateau of rolling mountaintops with alternating areas of dense spruce and open mountain meadows—this is the 41,132-acre San Pedro Parks Wilderness, created in 1931.

Deer, bear, turkey, grouse, and elk regularly draw hunters. Fishermen rarely leave the small high streams empty-handed. The green beauty of the 10,000-foot-high “parks” is a satisfying reward to the hiker or rider.

A well-developed trail system provides ample opportunities for both day use and camping. There are no jagged peaks or high rock cliffs in San Pedro Parks. Its trails and meadows are often wet and summer showers are common.

Information on wilderness, trail conditions, maps, and other matters of interest to visitors are available at the Cuba ((505) 289-3264), Jemez ((505) 829-3535), Coyote ((505) 638-5526), and other district offices of the Santa Fe National Forest.





## **Sandia Mountain Wilderness**

Towering over the city of Albuquerque, the Sandia Mountains have long provided recreation for residents. In 1978, and in later revisions, 37,232 acres were classified as wilderness. The wilderness covers primarily the western slope, but extends east of the crest ridge at the north and south ends of the mountain. The wilderness is split near its center by a corridor used by the Sandia Peak Tramway. The trail system is well developed and receives heavy use. There are limited camping opportunities along trails because of a lack of water.

For more information, contact the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest at 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, NM 87059, Phone: (505) 281-3304.



## Wheeler Peak Wilderness

At 19,150 acres, this wilderness offers unique and unusual experiences.

The focal point is Wheeler Peak, 13,161 feet, the highest point in New Mexico. The alpine tundra vegetation that covers Wheeler and other nearby peaks is rare in the Southwest. The plant and animal species found here are limited to the "high country."

Designated in 1960 and increased in size in 1980, the area is the headwater of several streams that are vital to downstream users.

High country travel can be taxing to even well-conditioned persons, so plan trips carefully to enjoy them most.

Although there are many access trails, some traverse private land, so check locally for information. The wilderness is in the Carson National Forest. The Questa Ranger District office can provide information and maps of the area. Write or call: Questa Ranger District, P.O. Box 110, Questa, NM 87556, Phone: (505) 586-0520.



## White Mountain Wilderness

This unique botanical area encompasses 48,873 acres and elevation ranges from desert grassland at 6,000 feet to the subalpine at 11,400 feet. It is adjacent to the 12,003 foot Sierra Blanca Peak, the highest in southern New Mexico. The transition through five life zones is one of the most rapid found in any wilderness.

Over 100 miles of wilderness trails provide for the popular short day hike or extended trips of several days. Incredible panoramic views can be seen as well as an abundance of wildlife. Water can usually be found in springs and small streams scattered throughout the Bonita Drainage area, providing some fishing opportunities. The wilderness is a popular area for hiking, horse-back riding, hunting, fishing and a variety of other recreational opportunities.

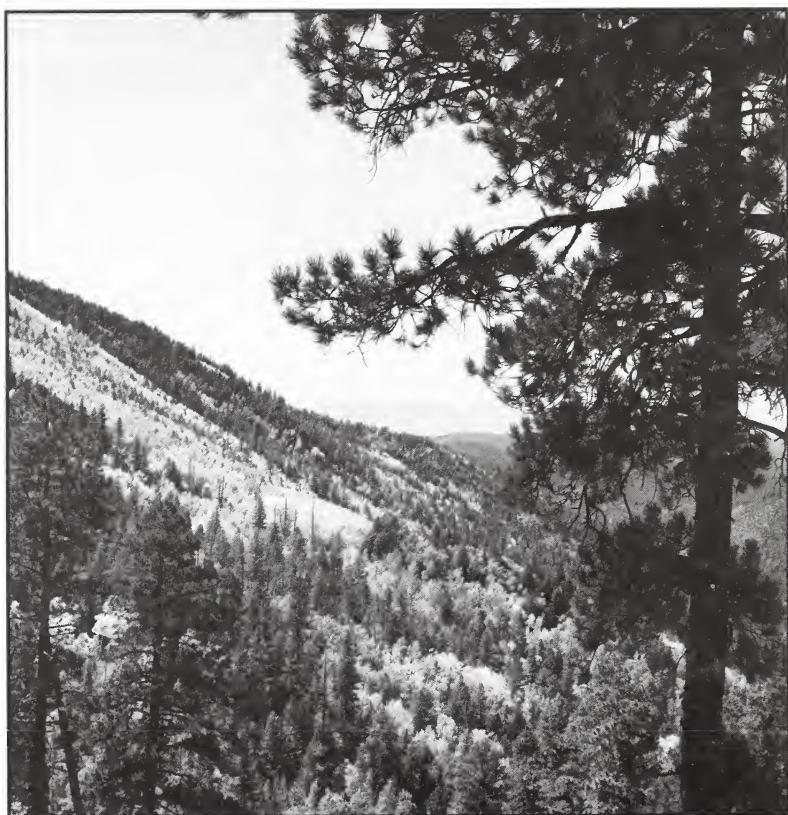
Wilderness information and maps are available from the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office in Alamogordo, Sacramento Ranger District in Cloudcroft, Guadalupe Ranger District in Carlsbad, and the Smokey Bear Ranger District, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345, Phone: (505) 257-4095.





## Withington Wilderness

Designated by Congress in 1980, this 18,869-acre wilderness consists primarily of a portion of the eastern slopes of the San Mateo Mountains in the northern end of that mountain range. The topography is quite rugged, with elevations varying from 6,800 to 10,100 feet. Vegetation includes piñon-juniper, ponderosa pine, spruce, fir, and aspen. Three trails access this seldom visited area. Camping opportunities are limited by a lack of water sources. The Magdalena Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest administers the area and can be contacted for further information at Box 45, Magdalena, NM 87825, Phone: (505) 854-2281.





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